

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2012

Committee Members:

Stephen Braun, 413-549-2697 (Chair)

Charles Moran, 413-549-5767

Christine Gray-Mullen, 413-336-1988

Richard Fein, 413 658 -7029 (new member) William Mullin, (new member)

Accomplishments: in accordance with its charge, the Public Works Committee (PWC) reviewed DPW plans for street repairs and improvements. The Committee also made recommendations for allocating the annual Chapter 90 funds of approximately \$500,000 along with \$1 million from bonds issued per the 2012 Fall Town Meeting. PWC prioritized a list of about a dozen minor local roads in heavy need of repaving which was submitted to the Select Board and DPW for consideration. A request from the Town Manager reallocated funds to the major arterials of Strong and Triangle Street. These and many other roads around the Town were repaved this paving season.

Another accomplishment was traffic calming measures on Dana Street and Blue Hills Road. The PWC held public hearings on determining the correct solution considering the nature of the neighborhood and traffic flow and speed. The PWC supported the installation of “speed humps” on both streets. These speed humps were constructed and appear highly effective in limiting traffic speeds.

Along with road repaving prioritizing, sidewalks construction needs were also address. A list of sidewalks requiring construction was proposed and submitted to the DPW.

Continuing Projects: Two public hearings were held this year regarding the redesign of Pine Street from North Pleasant Street/Rte 63 to Henry Street/Cushman. The project also involves a water and sewer upgrade. Opinion is strong to improve and add sidewalks and bike lanes. The project has had financial difficulty establishing funding. Two grant attempts have failed slowing the project. It continues to be a DPW priority and water/sewer work has begun. Redesign options continue to be evaluated by the PWC.

In July of 2012, the Mill Street Bridge was determined to be unsafe per the MADOT. It has been closed since that time. Financing was unavailable at that time to rebuild the bridge. This project continues with financing possibly being available but locals have differing options whether the bridge should stay closed or be rebuilt.

Public Hearings were held for various roadway issues throughout the year as mentioned above in addition including a Farview Way Neighborhood Repaving Request and pedestrian crossing issues at the Main Street and Triangle Street intersection.

At the end of the FY13, Steve Braun retired from the PWC and as Chair. Christine Gray-Mullen was voted in as new Chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Gray-Mullen, Chair